IN THE DRAWINGS:

Enclosed herewith is a proposed drawing amendment to Figure 3 to correct a drafting error. The proposed amendment replaces "30b" with "70b". Also enclosed herewith is a proposed drawing amendment to Figure 5 to illustrate the "frangible links" recited in claim 13. Applicants submit that this drawing correction is not new matter because the "frangible links" are clearly described and enabled in the specification at page 6, lines 10-17. (Paragraph 19 of the substitute specification.)

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, and 7-15 without prejudice, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An expandable tubing assembly comprising:

a tubular connector defining overlapping longitudinal slots and comprising an intermediate portion located between slotted end portions, the connector being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material in the intermediate portion where adjacent circumferencially spaced slots overlap, and

lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots with nodes beyond the ends of the slots and having slotted end portions, the tubing being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap,

wherein the slotted end portions of the connector are threaded to the nodes of respective end portions of the tubing lengths and the deformable fingers of the connector are axially spaced from the end most deformable fingers of the respective tubing lengths.

2. (Cancel without prejudice) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the connector end portions and the nodes of the tubing end portions are threaded.

3. (Amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the intermediate portion is of corresponding configuration of the tubing lengths, such that expansion characteristics of the connected tubing assembly are substantially constant.

4. The assembly of claim 3, wherein the connector intermediate portion is of substantially the same wall thickness of the tubing and wherein the connector end portions are upset.

5. The assembly of claim 4 wherein each connector end portion defines an internal thread for engaging a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the respective tubing end portion.

6. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the connector end portions define grooves to receive corresponding tongues provided on the tubing length end portions.

7. (Cancel without prejudice) An arrangement for coupling lengths of expandable tubing, the arrangement comprising:

a sleeve defining overlapping longitudinal slots and being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap;

first and second tubing lengths defining overlapping longitudinal slots and being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap; and

connecting means for connecting the sleeve to [the ends of] the tubing lengths, ends of the tubing lengths being received by respective ends of the sleeve,

the deformable fingers of the sleeve being axially spaced from the end most deformable fingers of the respective tubing lengths.

8. (Cancel without prejudice) The arrangement of claim 7, wherein the connecting means are provided at circumferentially spaced locations at the end of the tubing lengths beyond the end most tubing fingers, and at the ends of the sleeves beyond the respective end most tubing fingers.

9. (Cancel without prejudice) The arrangement of claim 7, wherein the sleeve and the tubing lengths are each of substantially constant diameter along their length.

10. (Cancel without prejudice) A method of coupling the ends of first and second lengths of expandable tubing and expanding the coupled tubing lengths, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve defining overlapping longitudinal slots and deformable fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap;

providing first and second lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots and deformable fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap;

coupling the sleeve to the ends of first and second lengths of expandable tubing such that the fingers of the sleeve are longitudinally spaced from the end most fingers of the tubing lengths; and

forcing an expansion member through the connected tubing lengths to expand the sleeve and the tubing lengths.

11. (Cancel without prejudice) An arrangement for coupling lengths of expandable tubing, the arrangement comprising:

a sleeve of longitudinally extending strips of metal;

first and second tubing lengths defining overlapping longitudinal slots and being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap; and

connecting means for connecting the sleeve to the ends of the tubing lengths.

12. (Cancel without prejudice) The arrangement of claim 11, wherein the strips are rectilinear.

13. (Cancel without prejudice) The arrangement of claim 11, wherein the strips are initially circumferentially connected by frangibl links.

14. (Cancel without prejudice) A method for coupling the ends of first and second lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots and deformable fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve comprising longitudinally extending strips of material;

coupling the sleeve to the ends of first and second lengths of expandable tubing; and

forcing an expansion member through the connected tubing lengths to expand the sleeve and tubing lengths.

15. (Cancel without prejudice) An expandable tubing assembly comprising:

a tubular connector defining overlapping longitudinal slots and comprising an intermediate portion between slotted upset end portions; and

lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots and having slotted end portions defining nodes beyond the ends of the slots, the connector end portions being coupled to the nodes of respective end portions of the tubing lengths, the connector intermediate portion being of substantially the same wall thickness as the tubing, such that the expansion characteristics of the connected tubing assembly are substantially constant over the connection.

Please add the following new claims 16-26:

Sub D1 16. (New) An expandable tubing assembly, comprising:

a first and second tubular having a plurality of longitudinal slots formed therein;

a connector threadably disposed between the first and second tubulars, wherein the connector comprises:

first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots formed therein; and

an int rmediate portion located between the first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots that at least partially overlap the slots formed in the first and second ends.

Sub C4 17. (New) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the slots formed in the first tubular, the second tubular, and the intermediate portion are expandable.

18. (New) The assembly of claim 17, wherein the slots formed in the first tubular, the second tubular, and the intermediate portion are expandable to form substantially diamond shaped apertures.

19. (New) The assembly of claim 17, wherein an inner surface of the first and second ends of the connector is threaded.

B8 Sub C5 Cont'd 20. (New) The assembly of claim 19, wherein the threaded inner surface of the first and second ends of the connector engage a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the first and second tubular.

21. (New) The assembly of claim 20, wherein the first and second ends of the connector include a recessed groove that receives a tongue disposed on an end of the first and second tubular.

Sub C2 22. (New) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the connector is attached to the first and second tubular using one or more means for connecting disposed between the radially spaced, longitudinal slots formed in the first and second ends of the connector.

23. (New) An expandable tubing assembly, comprising:

a first and second tubular having a plurality of longitudinal slots formed therein;

a connector disposed between the first and second slotted tubulars, wherein the connector comprises:

first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots formed therein, wherein an inner surface of the first and second ends of the connector is threaded; and

an intermediate portion located between the first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots that at least partially overlap the slots formed in the first and second ends,

wherein the threaded inner surfaces of the first and second ends of the connector engage a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the first and second tubular.

sub C7 24. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the slots formed in the first tubular, the second tubular, and the intermediate portion are expandable to form substantially diamond shaped apertures.

B8 Cont 25. (New) An expandable tubing assembly, comprising:

a first and second tubular having a plurality of longitudinal slots formed therein;

a connector disposed between the first and second slotted tubulars, wherein the connector comprises:

first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots formed therein, wherein an inner surface of the first and second ends of the connector is threaded and wherein the first and second ends of the connector include a recessed groove; and

an intermediate portion located between the first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots that at least partially overlap the slots formed in the first and second ends,

wherein the threaded inner surfaces of the first and second ends of the connector engage a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the first and second tubular and each recessed groove receives a corresponding tongue disposed on an end of the first and second tubular.

26. (New) A method for coupling an expandable tubing assembly, comprising:

providing a sleeve comprising: